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THE REA LINEMAN

STOP!

THINK!

"LET'S LIVE LONGER"

Rural Electrification Administration U. S. Department of Agriculture

Vol. I, No. 1

MARCH, 1941

Washington, D. C.

ONE KILLED, 23 HURT IN MONTH OF ACCIDENTS

A groundman was killed and 21 were disabled in accidents suffered by contractors' employes reported in January.

During the same period, there were 2 disabling accidents to employes of REA cooperatives. The victim of the fatal accident was Weldon T. Parker, employed by Elkhorn Construction Co., who was working on the lines of the Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Cordell, Oklahoma.

Parker was working on the ground at the base of a line stub pole, with the down guy hanging loose. The lineman on the pole was working on another piece of guy strand, which accidentally came in contact with a hot line. At that time, Parker was holding the guy wire, which was in direct contact with the overhead guy the lineman was working on. Death was instantaneous. A list of disabling accidents to REA cooperative employes and contractors' employes will be found on page 3.

A NEW PUBLICATION

Here is a new monthly publication--the REA LINEMAN.

It is devoted to the safety of all employes of REA systems. Contractors' employes, too--

We feel, therefore they will read it--linemen especially--because practically every operation they perform on high voltage lines is hazardous.

A publication of this kind is no better than its contributors. Therefore, the more stories of experiences dealing with safety--and accidents--that are sent in, the more interesting the REA LINEMAN will be.

REA's safety record is improving. In 1939, there was a disabling accident for every 1,410 miles of line then in operation. Last year saw this figure reduced to one disabling accident for every 2,290 miles of line in operation.

But this safety record can be improved. It must be.

OHIO CO-OPS MAY EMPLOY SAFETY MAN

A full time safety and job-training man for Ohio may be employed soon according to plans made at a recent conference of superintendents, linemen, and ground crews at Marysville.

A safety committee of REA superintendents was appointed to devise ways and means for intensive safety training of employes of all Ohio REA cooperatives. A plan was outlined and authorization given to explore the possibilities of the State Board of Control for Vocational Education sponsoring the safety campaign.

Advanced methods in rescue work were demonstrated at the Marysville conference, which was attended by 150 persons during a two-days session. The Ohio Midland Light and Power Company assisted in the demonstrations.

All operating employes of this company are required to have at least the standard first aid course of the Red Cross.

COOPERATION HELD KEY TO SAFETY

David A. Fleming, REA Safety Director, points out that the rapid expansion of REA lines has created a problem of maintenance and repair, which has necessitated the employment of maintenance men of varying degrees of skill and experience. Fleming in discussing the need for job training says:

"We believe that the old timer will welcome the opportunity

of a review of safe practices and that the newer men coming into the business will profit by learning the safe and efficient way to perform their daily tasks.

"The wholehearted cooperation of all concerned will result in less accidents."

Fleming will be glad to supply publicity data to linemen requesting it.

THE REA LINEMAN

Published Monthly in the Interest of
Safety of Employees of REA Systems

David A. Fleming, Editor

IT MAY EVEN BE YOU

We hope employees of REA co-ops will consider this publication as NOT "just another piece of mail from Washington," but rather as an aid in their daily tasks. There will be some material in the REA LINEMAN which will not be pleasant reading. That is because we expect to print descriptions of accidents on REA lines--how they happened--how they might have been avoided. It may be far-fetched to say this--but--An item read in this publication--considered and heeded--may be the medium of saving some one from serious injury--or even death. And that person may be you.

FRED ARTH--A NAME TO REMEMBER

In another column you will read the story of Fred Arth, Ohio lineman, who has been cited for saving a fellow-worker's life.

Here is an outstanding example of the value of having at least two men on every hazardous job.

Arth well deserves the President's Medal of the National Safety Council for which he has been recommended.

CASUALTY LIST

On the opposite page is a list of those injured during January on REA lines. There was one fatality, a contractor's employee. Aside from the humanitarian view, REA superintendents should remember that accidents to contractors' employees reflect against the cooperative. It is strictly within the province of the REA system manager to make sure that the contractor takes adequate safety precautions at all times.

SAFETY AWARD

Details of an award for systems which excel in safety and job-training will be announced in an early issue.

LECTURE ON SAFETY
BRINGS "CONFESSION"

Elmer "Red"

Riley and Gates Davis, linemen for the Rush Co. (Ind.) REMC, visited a local school recently to lecture on safety. The linemen had found wire thrown over the high line. They wanted to warn the students that this practice was dangerous--and in addition was likely to put the electric service out of commission. Their story was so convincing that 2 boys confessed to throwing the wire over the high line.

CHILD IS HURT IN
SERVICE WIRE MIXUP

The "Safety Monitor," organ of the Idaho Power Co., stresses the importance of the service entrance in a message to linemen. The publication tells the following story:

"The service wires at the home of a customer had been torn down and when they were replaced by a company employee the neutral and the hot wires were reversed. The ground on the customer's switchbox was not effective. A 3-yr. old child came in contact with this ground pipe and received minor burns."

OHIO LINEMAN
SAVES LIFE OF
FELLOW WORKER

Fred Arth, lineman for the Union Rural Electric Cooperative of Marysville, Ohio, was cited recently for saving the life of a fellow worker.

Arth applied artificial respiration to Fred Crothers after the latter had been severely burned while working on a live wire. Arth has been recommended for the President's Medal of the National Safety Council.

Harry Slattery, Administrator of REA, sent Arth the following message:

"I especially congratulate you on your safety-mindedness, congratulate you for putting time and effort to acquire the special skill that in time of emergency enabled you to save the life of an injured man."

REPORTS 6 ACCIDENTS

Wannamaker & Wells, Inc., contractors of Andrews, S. C., report 6 accidents during January, in which employees lost time ranging from 2 days to 5 weeks. In one accident a tree trimmer's toe was pierced by a hook. In another accident, a laborer suffered a broken toe when a log fell on his foot. One laborer suffered severe hip bruises when he was struck by a falling tree.

LINEMEN GIVE SAFETY HINTS TO MEMBERS

Many linemen on REA systems go out of their way to instruct the membership on safety precautions. Quite a few linemen have taken the rules as described in "A Guide for Members of Cooperatives," issued by REA as a text. Some of these rules are:

1. Have wiring done only by a competent electrician.
2. Make sure that it is done with approved materials.
3. Have all wiring checked by an authorized inspector.
4. Use only approved cords and appliances and do not handle them with wet hands or while standing in a wet place.
5. In using appliances, follow the directions that come with each appliance.
6. Do not run extension cords under rugs, over nails, or around pipes or radiators.
7. Replace a blown fuse only with a fuse. Anything else may cause trouble.
8. Do not touch any exposed wires unless you are sure that the current is not on.
9. If you see anything wrong along the electric highline call your project office at once.
10. When you disconnect an appliance, pull on the plug, not on the cord.
11. If your line goes dead, let the project office know immediately.

THESE ACCIDENTS COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED

They were Reported to REA During January

DEAD.

Weldon T. Parker
Employed by Contractor on Okla. 21 Washita

DISABLED.

REA EMPLOYEES

Ky. 50 Graves--Raymond Slayden--leg injured.
Minn. 66 Nobles--Darriel Brouillet--fingers burned.

DISABLED CONTRACTORS' EMPLOYEES

Ind.--Nels Thompson--2 fingers injured.
Ky.--Maurice Mulloy--broken leg.
N. C.--Weldon McNair--right foot bruised.
N. C.--C. J. Holland--lacerations above and below left eye.
N. C.--George McAlister--bruise below left knee.
N. C.--Jashua David--left thigh injured.
N. C.--Ernest Young--laceration of 2 toes.
Ohio--Homer D. Reynolds--1 finger injured.
Ohio--Paul E. Conner--right foot severely cut.
Ohio--Earl B. Miller--back and chest severely bruised.
Okla.--Ted Slusarski--1 toe cut.
Okla.--Orval P. Littleton--hand and wrist swollen.
S. C.--Royster Boyd--cuts on head, chest bruised, legs hurt.
S. C.--James W. Brown--cut on knee.
S. C.--Ben Shaw--strained side.
S. C.--Emerson R. Keisler--sprained ankle.
S. C.--Roy H. Thornton, Jr.--pierced toe.
S. C.--W. B. Horton--crushed foot.
S. C.--R. Best--hip severely bruised.
S. C.--Julius Smith--broken toe.
S. C.--James Grant--cut around eye.

"KNEW THE LINE WAS COLD," BUT HE GETS SHOCK

This is the story of Darriel Brouillet, who "knew the line was cold."

Brouillet is a line-man's helper, employed by the Nobles Electric Cooperative of Worthington, Minn. Brouillet, with the lineman, H. Knapp, were patrolling the lines to find an outage. They came to a branch line which they believed to be "dead." They found a lightning arrester that had broken and was hanging on the phase wire. Believing this to be the source of the trouble, and still feeling certain that they were on the dead phase, Knapp and Brouillet took no precautions to test it. Knapp had been ill, so his helper, Brouillet, climbed the pole. He had his hand resting on the neutral wire when he reached up with the other for the damaged lightning arrester. The finger touched the lead from the cutout to the transformer. Fortunately, the fuse blew out, so it killed the circuit. Brouillet fell into his safety belt. He was too weak to loosen his belt. Knapp assisted Brouillet to the ground. Brouillet is back at work, but he might well have been killed because "the line was cold."

SAFETY HELD A FACTOR IN DEFENSE

Safety is an important factor in the national defense, according to Thomas B. Morton, U. S. Commissioner of Labor. Speaking at the Industrial Safety Conference held at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Morton said:

"Our national prosperity and welfare depends upon the production of goods and their use and enjoyment by all our people. In the attainment of this objective the degree of efficiency of production is an important consideration. Production requires capital, raw materials and labor. Not least among the requisites for production is manpower. It is one of the most essential resources of our State and Nation. This is recognized by the enactment of labor legislation and various methods which have been adopted to safeguard and conserve workers.

"In modern industry which has become very highly mechanized, one of the factors impeding production and the efficiency of workers is accidents. While much has been done to discover their causes and alleviate their effects, much more remains to be done."

KITCHEN IS DECLARED MOST DANGEROUS ROOM

L. C. Sabie, Supt. of Minn. 73 Pipestone has informed his membership that "the kitchen is the most dangerous room in the house, especially for children." He adds: "A chair, box or table top as a make-shift step-ladder has sent many a person to a hospital."

MEMBERS IN ILLINOIS GET SAFETY LESSONS

The Menard Electric Coop. of Petersburg, Ill. recently started a series of study courses for its members to bring them constructive information on the intelligent uses and operation of electrical equipment. Describing these courses, A. E.

Becker, Mgr., says: "We are devoting a brief period of each meeting to safety. Two leaders are suggested each week to direct some phase of safety before the group. We supply the leaders with some data and they also present information that they have obtained. We select one man and one woman from the group each week and their treatment of the subject of safety is creating much interest. We expect to add 150 additional members to our safety classes."

SAFETY OF EMPLOYEES HELD CORNERSTONE OF SOUND LABOR POLICY

By John A. Lapp
REA Labor Adviser

Safety of employees is one of the cornerstones of sound labor policy. All parties recognize that fact. Employers put forth strong efforts for safety and organized labor has made it one of the planks of its platform for many years.

Safety is one of the subjects on which every one agrees; there are no dissenting voices. It is one subject upon which employers and employees confer without feeling or prejudice. Collective action is always possible through cooperative efforts on the part of all interested parties. And who are the interested parties? The question answers itself. Employers, employees and the public all share the burdens

and the losses. The public bears the final burden, the employer and employees take the immediate economic shock and the employees bear alone the pain and suffering. The interests of all parties conspire together for humanity and economy. This is not a problem solely for the Board of Trustees, or the Superintendent, or the lineman, or the other employees; it is a problem for all of these acting together through constant study, planning and conferences. Safety is not something that can be imposed; it is a growth which must permeate those who are exposed to danger.

LOUISIANA SUPERINTENDENT TAKES INSTRUCTION COURSE

H. B. Bowles, Superintendent of the Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation, of Lafayette, has just completed a Red Cross first aid course. The course was designed especially so as to qualify those who passed the test to teach first aid. The course

consisted of five 2½ hour periods per week for two weeks.

Bowles has been awarded the first aid certificate and is now busy instructing the personnel of the cooperative in the latest methods for preventing injuries of all types, both inside and outside the home.